

91 discharge of exhaled air. US Patent 4,655,213 assigned to New York University includes a threshold valve to release air from the mask. Alternatively electronic methods exist such as that described in US Patent 5803065 assigned to Respironics have been used to improve the effectiveness of CPAP therapy.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

sub B1 1. (Once Amended) A device for controlling the gas flow between a pressurised gases supply and a user, comprising:
a body portion including a first opening adapted to be in fluid communication with a pressurised gases supply, a second opening adapted to be in fluid communication with a user, a first auxiliary outlet in said body portion, and
valve means adapted such that during a user's inhalation, the flow of gases from said first opening is directed to said second opening, and during a user's exhalation, the flow of gases from said first opening is directed to said first auxiliary outlet.

sub B2 3. (Once Amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said valve means comprises an axially moveable member of a construction suitable to substantially seal inside said body portion but in use axially moveable therein.

5. (Once Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said moveable member includes a partition disposed between said apertures in said moveable member, and a one way valve allowing flow only in the direction from said first opening to said second opening.

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8. (Once Amended) A system for supplying gases to a user at a pressure above ambient comprising:

a pressurised gases supply,

gases delivery means for supplying said gases to said user in fluid communication with said pressurised gases supply and said user, and

flow control means disposed within said gases delivery means or in fluid communication therewith, said flow control means comprising a device for controlling the gas flow between a pressurised gases supply and a user, said device including a body portion including a first opening adapted to be in fluid communication with a pressurised gases supply, a second opening adapted to be in fluid communication with a user, a first auxiliary outlet in said body portion, and valve means adapted such that during a user's inhalation, the flow of gases from said first opening is directed to said second opening, and during a user's exhalation, the flow of gases from said first opening is directed to said first auxiliary outlet.

Please add new claims 10-21 as follows:

10. (New) A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said device further includes a second auxiliary outlet in said body portion, which during inhalation of a user is closed, and during exhalation of a user is open and in fluid communication with said second opening.

11. (New) A system as claimed in claim 10 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.

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12. (New) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said valve means of said device comprises an axially moveable member (of a construction suitable to substantially seal inside said body portion) but in use axially moveable therein.

13. (New) A system as claimed in claim 12 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.

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14. (New) A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein said movable member includes at least two apertures and said first auxiliary outlet and said second auxiliary outlet comprise apertures in said body portion which align with said apertures in said moveable member during exhalation of a user, and are closed off by solid sections of said moveable member during inhalation of a user.

15. (New) A system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.

16. (New) A system as claimed in claim 14 wherein said moveable member includes a partition disposed between said apertures in said moveable member, and a one way valve allowing flow only in the direction from said first opening to said second opening.

17. (New) A system as claimed in claim 16 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.

18. (New) A system as claimed in any one of claims 10, 12, 14 or 16 wherein said first auxiliary outlet is of an cross sectional area greater than that of said second auxiliary outlet.

19. (New) A system as claimed in claim 18 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.

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20. (New) A system as claimed in claim 14 wherein said body portion includes stopping means restricting the axial movement of said movable member such that during inhalation said moveable member moves towards said second opening until stopped by said stopping means whereby said apertures in said body portion are closed off by said solid sections, and during exhalation said moveable member moves toward said first opening until stopped by said stopping means whereby said apertures in said moveable member align with said apertures in said body portion.

21. (New) A system as claimed in claim 20 further comprising humidification means, for humidifying said gases before delivery to said user, disposed within or in fluid communication with said gases delivery means.